

## SOUTH-EASTERN VICTORIA REGION



Department of Education and  
Early Childhood Development

**SEVMail**

**MEMORANDUM**

**SEV:** 2014-013

**TO:** All Principals, Rural Schools and Early Childhood Centres

**FROM:** John Allman, Regional Director

**DATE:** 13 February 2014

**SUBJECT:** School and Early Childhood closures due to impact of fires

**Summary**

Update on impact of Schools and Early Childhood Centres in the rural area of SEVR

It is pleasing to note that the number of Schools and Early Childhood Centres are now returning to normal. There are still some bus route closures which are listed below.

As there continues to be smoke in many areas of Victoria, please continue to monitor the EPA's air quality report at: [www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/air-quality-bulletins](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/air-quality-bulletins). Students with asthma, should be utilizing their Asthma Plan.

**Support Services**

Student Support Services are continuing to provide support to many schools across the networks. Schools should contact their Student Support Services Coordinator for advice and support to assist them during the response and recovery period in relation to psycho-social issues that may arise both now and in the coming weeks.

As indicated in previous Memorandums, schools are reminded that support is available for students and staff through the Employee Assistance Program (PPC Worldwide) on 1300 361 008.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/management/Pages/employeeservices.aspx#link4>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/management/eapflyer.pdf> and their Student Support Services Network.

Schools can access DEECD support materials on the DEECD website

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/pages/emergenciesschools.aspx>

**Water Tanks**

Please continue to monitor your water tanks to ensure a clean supply of drinking water is available following the fires over the past week and for those schools in areas where fires are still active.

A number of schools have rainwater tanks for drinking water. It is important that schools check this supply for ash contamination.

Schools should check and clean the roof catchment area, roof gutters and downpipes to ensure that these components are clean and that no ash enters the drinking supply.

If the drinking water is found to be contaminated then schools should immediately arrange for the roof area, gutters and tank to be cleaned out and water replaced immediately.

Schools are to arrange and pay for this work in the first instance and advise Peter Trevena or Kevin O'Rourke at the Regional office. The region will arrange reimbursement of the cost of this water supply maintenance.

The following **schools** and **Early Childhood Centres** are closed today:

- Goongerah/Tubbut P-8 school (both campuses) – will be closed until 14 February
- Goongerah ELC

The following **Bus Routes** remain closed or using alternative routes:

### **Bairnsdale**

Woodglen Phelan – beginning route at 8.09 at Lindenow Hall

Fernbank Carrison – beginning route at 8.10 at Walpa

### **Lindenow Primary School**

Dargo-Lindenow run

Fernbank-Beverly Road run

### **Yarram SC**

Hiawatha – Yarram

### **School Buses**

If a bus route is to be closed, or if a route is to remain closed, this must be confirmed to Kevin O'Rourke at [orourke.kevin.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:orourke.kevin.j@edumail.vic.gov.au), SEVR Dandenong Regional office by **2.00pm each day**. Please take into account all local information and utilize the VicRoads website. Where possible, confirmation of road conditions should be validated with your local police.

Bus coordinators are to ensure that all parents are notified and that other users travelling on that route are also notified accordingly of any cancellation.

For further information, please contact Mr Kevin O'Rourke, SEVR Emergency Management Coordinator on 0447 019 887 / 8765 5761 or [orourke.kevin.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:orourke.kevin.j@edumail.vic.gov.au) or Peter Trevena, Senior Provision & Planning Officer on 0477 734 019 / 5127 0488 or [trevena.peter.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:trevena.peter.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

### **JOHN ALLMAN**

Regional Director

South Eastern Victoria Region